

“Tell What He Has Done”
(Mark 5:1-20)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. Last week, we saw Jesus revealing His true identity on the Sea of Galilee.
 - a. When the disciples were in the middle of the Sea, a fierce gale arose and the waves were filling the boat.
 - b. When they cried out to Jesus to save them, He spoke to the wind and waves and they obeyed Him – they obeyed because He made them and had sovereignty over them – they obeyed because He is God.
 - c. That’s why the disciples were so afraid – because they realized who He really was.

2. He also revealed that He is the Lord of history – that He not only made all things, but moves them along according to God’s plan.
 - a. He had planned that storm to test the disciples’ faith – whether they would trust Him when He said they were going to the other side.
 - b. They failed; they hadn’t learned that lesson yet; but when Jesus hushed the wind and the waves, they were one step closer; He really means what He says.
 - c. This is what He wants you to learn as well:
 - a. That nothing happens to you by accident.
 - b. The Lord brings difficulties into your life to test you.
 - c. He wants you to know that He is just as much with you as He was with the disciples – He’s not going to bring you into the deep waters to let you drown.
 - d. You need to learn to trust Him.

B. Preview.

1. But Jesus had another reason for crossing that Sea – He had a Providential meeting with a group of herdsmen, a man who was demon-possessed, and a group of people who needed to hear the Gospel.
 - a. He was crossing the Sea to free a man who was demon-possessed.
 - b. He was crossing to judge the herdsmen for their sins.
 - c. And He was crossing to raise up a witness to the Gospel to bring that Gospel to those in darkness.

2. Let’s consider these three things under these points:
 - a. First, if you will trust Jesus, He will free you from your sin as He did the man who was demon-possessed.
 - b. Second, if you reject Him, He will leave you in your sins, as He did the herdsmen.

- c. Finally, if the Lord has saved you, you need to tell others what He has done for you, as the man who was delivered.

II. Sermon.

- A. Let's consider first, that if you will trust Jesus, He will free you from your sin as He did the man who was demon-possessed.
 - 1. The situation this man was in was not altogether unlike yours when you came into the world: both of you were under the influence of some evil.
 - a. He was possessed by many evil spirits.
 - (i) Even one is very dangerous.
 - (ii) The fact that when they were cast out they destroyed two thousand swine might be an indicator of how many there were.
 - b. They all had one intent: to destroy this man.
 - (i) Demons are purely evil and have the same goal as their master, the devil – to destroy God, His work, and those made in His image.
 - (ii) That's what they were doing to this man:
 - (a) From a parallel passage we see first that they shamed him by not allowing him to wear clothes (Luke 8:27).
 - (b) They continually tormented him so that he was screaming constantly day and night (v. 5).
 - (c) They were beating him down – possibly trying slowly to kill him – by causing him to cut himself with stones (v. 5).
 - (d) They drove him away from all comfort and support (v. 3) – there was nothing anyone could do to help him.
 - (e) The demons compelled him to live among the tombs – as a reminder that he was headed to the grave and to hell (v. 3).
 - (f) Again, in a parallel passage, we see that they compelled him to attack others (Matt. 8:28) – and when they tried to stop him by binding him with chains, the demons would free him to do further mischief (v. 4).
 - (g) In short, not only were they trying to destroy him, but as many as they could through him.
 - (h) The devil hates each one of you and wants to ruin your life.
 - 2. Now your situation may not have been this bad, but it was still bad.
 - a. You didn't have one or more demons living in your soul, but you did have something that was equally dangerous: sin.
 - b. And that sin wanted to destroy you just as much as these demons wanted to destroy this man.
 - (i) Your sin is very much like a demon – it shares the same nature – it hates God, His work, and those in His image.
 - (ii) And so it drove you to do similar things – just consider what the people of this world are like – what you would be like without the Lord.
 - (a) How many shamefully uncover themselves, and are continually pushing the limits of modesty?

- (b) How many are tormented by a guilty conscience because their sins continue to accumulate without forgiveness?
 - (c) How many eat things that aren't good for them? Drink far too much alcohol? Take drugs?
 - (d) How many have cut and mutilated themselves with body piercings?
 - (e) How many have tried to kill themselves; how many have succeeded?
 - (f) How many try to get away from those really trying to help them – especially running from those bringing the Gospel – and want only to be with those who are as dead as they are?
3. Our text shows you that Jesus is the only One who can free you from this sin.
- a. He alone had the authority to free this man from these demons.
 - (i) When the demon-possessed man saw Him, he ran up to Jesus and bowed down.
 - (ii) He recognized Him as the Son of the Most High God (v. 6). He knew who He was perhaps because he had seen Jesus in heaven, or had the ability to discern His presence – but he knew he must submit to Him (v. 6).
 - (iii) He begged Him not to torment him – not to bring the final judgment on him yet (v. 7).
 - (iv) He also begged that Jesus wouldn't send him out of the country (v. 10), but that He would send them into the swine (v. 12).
 - (v) Jesus agreed, commanded them to depart (v. 8, 13) and they departed.
 - b. Jesus alone has the power to free you from your sins.
 - (i) He can speak the word and transform your life, just as He did this demoniac.
 - (a) Not only can He give you His Spirit to free you from your slavery to sin.
 - (b) He can give you His righteousness and free you from judgment.
 - (ii) While He draws near to you this morning through His Gospel, call on Him to save you: if you do from the heart, He will free you.
- B. Second, be warned that if you reject Him, He will leave you in your sins, as He did the herdsmen.
- 1. The demon-possessed man wasn't the only reason Jesus went to the country of the Gerasenes: there were also these farmers.
 - a. Jews were forbidden to eat pork, and yet these men had raised a herd of some two thousand swine.
 - b. As an act of judgment on them, Jesus allowed the demons to enter and destroy the herd (v. 13).
 - c. When the herdsmen told the people of the city, they all came out to see for themselves (v. 14); and when they saw they were afraid (v. 15) and begged Jesus to leave (v. 17).
 - d. They wanted Him to leave because they wanted their sin more.

- (i) Here was One who had the power to save them, to set them free.
 - (ii) And He would have if they had just received Him.
 - (iii) But those in the darkness hate the light, and will never come to Him.
2. Don't let this happen to you.
- a. Jesus is drawing near to you in the Gospel; He will set you free if you will receive Him.
 - b. Don't harden your heart against Him; don't reject Him.
 - c. If you do, He may one day pass you by forever in His mercy.
- C. Finally, this passage exhorts you to tell others what He has done for you.
1. The man who was delivered begged Jesus that he might go with Him – He wanted to serve Him (v. 18).
 - a. Jesus was certainly willing to let him do so, but not in the way he wanted.
 - (i) Jesus pointed him to where he would do the most good – by going back to his own people and telling them what Jesus had done.
 - (ii) These weren't from the same town as the herdsmen, but from Decapolis – a group of ten cities that were, interestingly enough, primarily Gentiles.
 - (iii) He was to be living proof of the mercy that the Lord was willing to show any who would repent and come to Him through Jesus Christ.
 - b. The man didn't argue or complain because it wasn't what he wanted to do.
 - (i) He submitted – he went and told everyone he could find in Decapolis what Jesus had done for him (v. 20).
 - (ii) And everyone was amazed by his testimony.
 2. The desire to serve the Lord and submit to Him in everything is further evidence that He has set you free from your sins.
 - a. The man who had been demon-possessed didn't stand and argue with Jesus that his way was better – he simply submitted and did what Jesus told him to do.
 - b. The same will be true of you. If you're converted:
 - (i) You will want to be with Him; you will submit to Him; you will want to tell others about Him.
 - (ii) Your testimony might not be quite like that of this man – although some might have a testimony like his – but you will still have something to tell, and you will:
 - (a) You will do your best to obey Him.
 - (b) You will do your best to serve Him
 - (c) And you'll do your best to bring others to Jesus.
 - (d) That is what will be in your heart. Amen.